Work Task E7: Hart Mine Marsh, Cibola National Wildlife Refuge

Partners: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS)

Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)

**Point of Contact:** Gregg Garnett, LC-2455 (702) 293-8644

**Purpose:** Create marsh and/or backwater habitats for covered fish and

wildlife species.

**Conservation Measures:** Potential site for creation of habitat for the covered species.

**Conservation Measures:** Species-specific conservation measures requiring the creation of

marsh, and backwater.

**Long-Term Goal:** To provide protected backwater and marsh habitat for species

covered under the LCR MSCP.

**Location:** Arizona side of Cibola National Wildlife Refuge (CNWR) south of

refuge headquarters.

**FY05 Estimate:** \$100,000 will fund in-house staff including Yuma Area Office's

engineering support office.

**Project Description:** Hart Mine Marsh is a degraded marsh located on CNWR that has

seasonal open water and relatively poor water quality. Currently, the marsh is not suitable as a protected backwater for native fish species. Portions (approximately 20 acres) of the marsh will be deepened to approximately ten feet by dredging/excavating. The areas adjacent to these deeper areas will be managed as marsh habitat. Passive fish barrier technology will be used to exclude non-native fish and allow a greater volume of water into the marsh and excavated backwaters to improve and maintain water quality for native fish. Adjacent marsh areas will also benefit from the improvement in water quality. Dredging and excavation work is

projected to begin in FY07.

Accomplishments

**/Conclusions to date:** Conceptual design was initiated, preliminary project scoping and

scheduling completed. Currently, information is being gathered to

prepare regulatory compliance documents.